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# Alumni Columns

VOL. XI—NO. 3

NORTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE

NOVEMBER, 1951

## QUEEN AND MAIDS IN HOMECOMING PARADE



Presiding over the Homecoming parade and football game is Miss Glyn Ellen Pennington, Homecoming Queen, with her Court, pictured above as photographer Guillet snapped them on the turn from Front Street into Touline. Queen Pennington hails from Shreveport.

The Queen's Court was composed of the following maids: Lelia Lenahan of Leesville, Betty Jean Thompson of Alexandria, Sarah Ann Cook of Grand Cane, Nelwyn Boydston of Natchitoches, Peggy Forbes of Tullos, and Mayme Rae Schoonover of Lake Charles.

### Homecoming Colorful Affair

Many returning alumni on our campus for Homecoming stated that this was the best homecoming event staged in many years, a fact that was greatly appreciated by the members of the many committees that put forth every effort to make it just that. And if you

were present we believe that you, too, felt the spirit of welcome and good fellowship that pervaded the entire campus.

The parade was unusually good this year. In addition to the most elaborate floats of recent years, the ROTC and the Air Forces added a touch of the military, as about 200 of each group joined in the parade.

### Trisler Power Plant Dedicated By Mr. Roy

The power plant was dedicated to William H. Trisler, former superintendent of grounds and utilities, by President Emeritus V. L. Roy. In his dedicatory address, Mr. Roy extolled the virtues of Mr. Trisler, who "was of invaluable aid to him and the institution at a time when he had such great need for a man who knew his job: he was efficient and thoroughly loyal."

**J. W. Bateman Toastmaster**  
Acting as Toastmaster for the

Alumni luncheon was Mr. J. W. Bateman, Class of 1904, former member of the faculty of "Normal" and a former president of the Alumni Association.

Music for the luncheon was furnished by the College Singers under the direction of Mr. Donald Glatly.

### Odom Elected President

Van D. Odom, principal of the Haynesville Elementary School, was re-elected President of the Alumni Association. Other officers elected were Harold Kaffie, Natchitoches, vice-president; Leroy S. Miller, secretary-treasurer; and Frank J. Mobley, New Orleans, as a member of the Board of Directors for four years.

Southeastern was most uncooperative in our Homecoming and downed the Demons to the tune of 33-14. Despite the score, the game was interesting and hard fought by both teams.

## ALUMNI Here 'n There

### Ward Elected New School Head In Ouachita

William W. Ward, A. B. '34, was named superintendent of schools for Ouachita Parish by the Ouachita Parish School Board at their meeting on October 24. He was elected to fill the unexpired term of former superintendent Mack Avant, who handed in his resignation recently.

Mr. Ward has been serving as assistant superintendent of East Carroll Parish for the past few years. Prior to that time he was principal of the Lake Providence High School.

Mrs. Ward is the former Gladys Belle Sirmon of Kaplan, also a graduate of Northwestern State College, class of 1935.

The COLUMNS wishes to congratulate Superintendent Ward on his recent promotion and extend every good wish for success in his new appointment.

\* \* \*

### Sherman Named "Man of Year"

J. R. Sherman, B. S. '39, was presented the Lions Club 1951 "Man of the Year" award in Haynesville recently.

Sherman is director of the Haynesville school bands and is also director of the choir of the First Methodist Church.

He was selected by members of the local Lions Club, assisted by members of the Haynesville American Legion post, as the man who had contributed most to the community and the children of Haynesville.

\* \* \*

### Finley Receives Commission

Howard F. Finley, B. S. '49, received his commission as Ensign on September 21 on the completion of his work at the Naval Officers Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island. He is now stationed on the U. S. S. Frybarger, (DEC 705), c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

After graduating from NSC, Finley attended University of Texas, where he was doing graduate work. He was in school there approximately two years before entering the Navy OCS.

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## Northwestern State College Alumni Association Organized 1894

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### ALUMNI COLUMNS

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## The Air Force At Northwestern

In an effort to bring to our graduates and former students some little information and a few sidelights on the personnel of the Air Forces who have been on our campus and who are coming to the campus week after week, we reproduce two articles recently written and published.

The Air Force men are definitely a part of our student body, a very welcome portion of our students. We are happy to have them and they, in turn, seem happy to be here. We give you the following stories as a gesture of appreciation of their presence here and of their contribution to our school life.

\* \* \*

## Jap Student At NSC Tells of Death of Hiroshima

By John C. Merrill

Hisao Matsumoto saw his home town die.

Hisao is a Japanese youth, 21 years old, who is attending the Air Force clerk-typist school here at Northwestern State College.

Six years ago he lived in the peaceful little city of Hiroshima, Japan. Monday, August 6, a beautiful day, found Hisao going to work in a factory with his classmates. The factory was about two and one-half miles from the center

of his hometown. The time was 8 A. M.

A lone American B-29 appeared overhead, but the people never worried about one bomber, so Hisao thought nothing of it. About 15 minutes later a bright yellow flash splattered the sky toward the center of the city.

According to "Mat," as he is called by his teachers at NSC, the workers began to ask each other: "What was that?"

It was the atom bomb. It was the destruction of their hometown.

### Everything Was Changed

Mat took about three steps and was thrown to the floor. He then heard a loud explosion. He doesn't remember how long he lay next to the wall of the factory, but when he arose "everything was changed." Doors, windows, and the ceiling of the factory were gone, and he could see the sky where the factory had been.

He saw other things too. Around him were "many people . . . bloody faces." In the distance a mushroom cloud rose slowly. Hisao suffered a slight head injury. For about three hours he and his fellows remained in what was the factory, dazed and bewildered.

Finally Mat and twenty other students headed toward their homes. Many of the students could not find their homes and

slept in the streets. The Matsumoto home was still intact, though damaged, and Hisao's parents and younger brother were alive.

Hisao describes the disrupted and dying city as a city of "living ghosts." Transportation completely disrupted . . . blackened hulks which were buildings . . . nauseating smell . . . moans and cries of agony from piles of debris.

### Watched City Burn

Mat and his family had watched Hiroshima burn all night. About a half mile from where the bomb fell, he saw thousands of dead bodies. He remarked, "You couldn't tell the males from the females."

About a week later, people "suddenly died" from the effects of the radioactive bomb. Hisao's father, in a weakened condition from a recent illness, died about two months later of the radio-activity.

According to Hisao, even after the knowledge that one bomb could destroy so much, the Japanese people never thought of surrender. They never considered that possibility, and when the news came about two weeks later that the emperor had surrendered, the people could hardly believe it.

After the war ended, Mat and his countrymen seemed to live day by day. He said he just couldn't imagine what life would be like.

His mother began to contact a

friend in America, and in February, 1949, Mat was on his way to Sacramento, California. Frightened and surprised on arrival, he stayed with an American family and studied English alone for awhile. Although he had finished high school in Japan, he began again in an American high school and finished in about a year and a half. This was last June. Then Mat joined the Air Force.

His ambition is to attend the University of California when his Air Force enlistment is up. He plans to study political science and return to Japan to do foreign relations work between America and Japan.

### Mat Likes America

When asked his opinion of the United States, Mat smiled and said, "I appreciate America and the American people. We never want to fight anymore." He went on to say the Japanese people as a whole were thankful to America.

Mat corresponds with his former Japanese teacher and friends. He tells them about America, and they inform him of the many ways in which Hiroshima is being rebuilt. The university there has been rebuilt and Mat's brother plans to study radio work there.

Summarizing his feelings about America, Mat stated, "I am so





happy to be in the United States now. I have never felt such a hospitality."

The young Japanese lad is homesick. He says the Louisiana climate now, the pine trees and vegetation, are almost identical to the climate and greenery back in his old hometown.

Hisao enjoys visiting various churches here, since his religion, Buddhism, is not represented. He is very impressed with the number of young people who attend church in America.

He likes the people here, the hospitality, the climate and many other things, but he still longs to see his old hometown once more.

He watched it die in 1945. But now it has a rebirth and Hisao Matsumoto, private first class, USAF, would like to see the change.

(Editor's note: Hisao Matsumoto was born in Los Angeles, California. He moved to Japan when less than 1 year of age. Being born an American citizen, he enlisted in and is now serving in the United States Air Forces.)

## We Had To Sprout Wings

By Ruth Bruner

Critics often say that education is static; that it is inflexible; that its teachers are pedantic and snuggle cozily in well-worn and comfortable ruts. Do you think this is true? Well . . .

For a moment, pretend that you are N. B. Morrison, head of Business Department at Northwestern State College of Louisiana, and that it is Friday morning, April 20, 1951. The week is drawing to an orderly close; there is rest and relaxation waiting for you.

Suddenly, a telegram is delivered. You learn that you are to enroll twenty-five Air Force students in three different classes at eight a. m. on Monday morning. You are to teach prepared material (but, of course, you have no material!) and you are to furnish all textbooks for the students (but you have no textbooks).

What would you do?

That is exactly what happened when we began our contribution to the current national emergency—an Air Force Clerk-Typist School. We were one of several colleges chosen to augment the clerical training offered by Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The contract finally signed by our college called

for us to train 250 airmen, who would arrive weekly in contingents of 25 to receive instruction in five phases—English, filing, typing, military reports and records, and military correspondence. Although the student would be an Apprentice Clerk upon completion of this course, his twelve weeks' stay here would insure an earlier promotion.

Obviously, the first week of our Clerk-Typist School was hectic. Mimeograph and hectograph machines turned frantically; multilith plates were hurriedly prepared, and Air Force forms duplicated. Faculty members on the campus were pressed into service as instructors, and no doubt deserved—for one week at least—that old accusation of keeping one lesson ahead of the student!

The Air Force provided Training Project Outlines that included all material to be mastered, plus work sheets for practice. Their course is very carefully worked out and includes not only a time schedule for teaching, but their own standardized examinations.

Problems presented themselves fast and furiously for the first month or so. The course material had to be duplicated, collated, bound into booklets, and made ready for each incoming student. The extent of this problem can be appreciated from the fact that each student in a twelve weeks' program is provided with approximately *one ream* of duplicated material! Expendable material must be continually reduplicated and reinserted into manuals and some effort made to insure against loss.

The second biggest headache was the problem of keeping approximately 150 typewriters in working order. You can almost hear those typewriters moan after being pounded for ten straight hours daily by heavy-handed students.

Rooms had to be arranged for the sole use of the Air Force classes. Ordinarily our building has two large typing rooms and one small one. The small room was retained for our regular college classes, and two additional rooms were outfitted so that we can accommodate twenty two-hour typing classes every day.

It was decided not to overload our own faculty or deprive our own students of their present instructors, so it was necessary to canvass the town to find experienced teachers with educational qualifications who would teach one or two classes a day. Faculty wives, ex-teachers who were now housewives, college practice-teaching students, etc., were given as-

signments in the program that had been outlined.

As we settled down into routine, we learned to find the answers to such questions as these:

"How many men in a firing squad?"

"Why is a civilian employee filed under 200-Personnel?"

"Under what condition is a man considered present *not* for duty?"

Since we are people normally concerned with pure business subjects, we began to feel rather smug.

That was a dangerous feeling because, again without much warning, the Air Force extended our contract to include 675 students, instead of the original 250 airmen. Once again we went into huddles—occasionally rather desperate—pondering ways and means of increasing space, equipment, and teaching personnel. Plans already completed were discarded regretfully, and more feasible ones worked out.

At present, then, our campus is dotted with marching, khaki-clad boys, and our building overflows with 300 "flyboys" and their thirty special teachers. Now we can reminisce about April 23, 1951, with somewhat more pride than self-pity.

It is too early for us to evaluate our program definitively, for it will not be finished until January. We are anxious to know the answers to many questions. We want to compare the achievements in the accelerated typing class with that in our regular semester classes. We want to know whether there is value in a rigidly prescribed class outline. We wonder if the short English course really does affect materially the student's spelling and grammar.

We do not know the answer to these and many other questions—yet. However, we do see around us evidence of some of the good things that have come to us as a result of the program.

Members of our department, accustomed to thinking of new classes only in terms of semesters, have been able to organize five new classes every Monday morning. We feel that this perhaps gives us more confidence in our ability to meet emergency conditions, should we be called upon for further expansion.

We like to believe that we are helping the "flyboys," many of whom have never been to college, to enjoy collegiate sports and

social activities with our own students.

We know that our somewhat insulated student body has profited greatly from contact with the visiting airmen from 48 states and just as widely scattered backgrounds.

At any rate, we don't believe that, educators, we are static or inflexible! And, if we are in a rut, it is now wide enough for 675 Air Force boys to march abreast!

(Editor's Note: Since this article was written, the Air Force contract has been extended to care for 975 airmen ending in May, 1952, with possibilities for future extensions.)

## Dr. Paul Weiss Honored

Sharing honors with two co-authors, Dr. Paul Weiss, Jr., A. B. '34, received national recognition when he and his co-authors were awarded the Journal Award from the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers for the most significant paper in the 1950 Journal.

The paper, written by Drs. Weiss, Jennings, and Stanton, was entitled "Synthetic Color-Forming Binders for Photographic Emulsions." It was the result of three and one-half years of intensive work on a product known as Type 875, DuPont Safety Release Positive, a color film designed for professional movie use.

Dr. Weiss, his wife and children, are residing at 908 New England Drive, Westfield, New Jersey.

## Alumni—

(Continued from Page 1)

Welcome News But—

Too often alumni move and forget to notify us of their new mailing address. If we can find you we put your name back on our list, but in the meantime you miss all the news about the old "Hill" as well as your friends and classmates. To illustrate, we received the following letter just recently from an alumnus we had lost and found again:

"I was very thrilled to receive a copy of ALUMNI COLUMNS, the first I've received. It was so good to learn what some of the old grads are doing. It was also good to hear news from the campus. I was happy to learn that "Coach Prather" is now president.

(Continued on Page 4)



## FIRE DESTROYS LAUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP



Pictured above is the roaring blaze that is consuming the laundry at NSC on the afternoon of October 20, when most of the student body and faculty were in Shreveport at the Louisiana State Fair to witness the football game between the Demons and Louisiana Tech.

The machine shop and storage quarters, shown in the foreground, were also destroyed by the fire; however some \$20,000 worth of equipment, trucks, mowers, etc., was saved before the fire enveloped the building.

Spreading rapidly, the fire was burning the old wooden laundry building like a tinder box before it was possible for the local fire engines to bring it under control. The fire fighters did save another wooden building adjacent to the laundry which houses all the stores and supplies as well as the carpenter shop.

The total loss has been estimated at approximately \$100,000. How much of this loss is covered by insurance has not been determined at this time. Many students literally "lost their shirts" as well as many other articles of clothing and linens. These losses have all been listed and filed in the President's Office so that every effort may be made to pay for them. However, it may require having a bill introduced in the State Legislature in May, calling for an appropriation to cover the students' losses. This was done in cases of fires at Louisiana Tech and at Grambling.

Do you want the Current Sauce?

Send \$2.00 to Current Sauce,  
Box 552, Natchitoches, Louisiana

## FOOTBALL

## Demons Continue Losing Streak

Evidently, 1951 is destined to be one of those years in which "Character and Sportsmanship" are developed rather than victory in football games. The Demons, after winning their season opener against Central Oklahoma State, have been unable to get back into the win column. They have been on the deficit side of the ledger in the last six games.

Starting the season with 9 lettermen, and plagued with injuries most of the season, the team has shown improvement in their play from week to week but has not developed enough to cope with the power of the opposing teams. Heartening to the coaches, however, is the splendid work being done by many of the freshmen on the squad, who have been outstanding in every game.

Displaying a fair offense in four of their games to date, the Demons have been unusually weak on defense. They have allowed their opponents to score 233 points while being able to roll up only 86 points themselves. This gives the opposition an average of 33.3 points per game as compared to a 12.3 point average per game for the Demons.

Despite the apparent poor showing, Ray leads the leads the Conference in pass completions and yardage gained, while Bobby Davis, playing in only five games, was among the leading scorers of

the Conference until sidelined by injuries received in the Tech game at Shreveport.

Scores of games played this season are as follows:

- NSC 19—Central Okla. 6
- NSC 20—Lamar Tech 32
- NSC 21—McNeese 38
- NSC 6—La. College 27
- NSC 6—La. Tech 21
- NSC 14—Southeastern 33
- NSC 0—Miss. Southern 76

## Alumni—

(Continued from Page 3)

"I was formerly Marjorie Sutherlin from Haughton, Class of 1946. Upon graduation I married Luther Steele. Some will remember him since he played football for Northwestern in 1945 while attached to the Naval Unit there. He attended the Missouri School of Mines from 1946-49, during which time I taught Commerce in the high school of Rolla, Missouri. He is now an engineer at the Trailmobile Tank Trailer, Inc., here in Springfield, Mo.

"Give my regards to President Prather and all the teachers.

Thanks again for the ALUMNI COLUMNS. We enjoyed it very much."

Marjorie Sutherlin Steele,  
1856 East Walnut Street,  
Springfield, Missouri  
\* \* \*

There are also those missing grads who finally get back to the campus for a visit. Such a one was Mrs. Austin T. O'Reilly, formerly Sarah Ragland, A. B. '35, of Monroe. She is now living at 2200 North Point Street, San Francisco 23, California.

After teaching about three years in the Commerce department after her graduation, Mrs. O'Reilly moved to San Francisco, where she met and married Mr. O'Reilly. As she said, "He is a native born San Francisco Irish boy and has never been in Louisiana before. I wanted him to come by with me and see my old school." He is swimming instructor for City of San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Reilly have a lovely young daughter, Eileen, who came with them to see Louisiana and Northwestern State College.

## Basketball Schedule for 1951-1952

November 23—	Alexandria Air Base .....	Natchitoches
November 27—	Sam Houston .....	Natchitoches
November 28—	Alexandria Air Base .....	Alexandria
December 3—	Lamar College .....	Natchitoches
December 4—	McNeese State .....	Lake Charles
December 5—	Lamar College .....	Beaumont, Texas
December 6—	Sam Houston .....	Huntsville, Texas
December 8—	Northeast State .....	Natchitoches
December 18—	McNeese State .....	Natchitoches
December 29—	Northeast State .....	Monroe
January 4—	Spring Hili College .....	Natchitoches
January 5—	Louisiana College .....	Pineville
January 12—	Southwestern .....	Natchitoches
January 15—	Loyola .....	Natchitoches
January 18—	Southeastern .....	Hammond
January 19—	Loyola .....	New Orleans
January 30—	Centenary .....	Shreveport
February 1—	Mississippi Southern .....	Hattiesburg, Miss.
February 2—	Spring Hill College .....	Mobile, Ala.
February 6—	Centenary .....	Natchitoches
February 8—	Mississippi Southern .....	Natchitoches
February 9—	Southeastern .....	Natchitoches
February 11—	Louisiana Tech .....	Natchitoches
February 14—	Louisiana College .....	Natchitoches
February 21—	Southwestern .....	Lafayette
February 25—	Louisiana Tech .....	Ruston
February 27-29—	Conference Tournament .....	To be determined











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